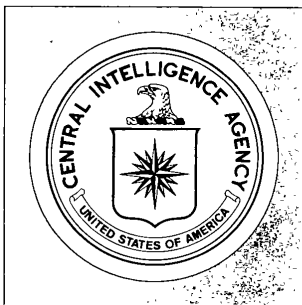


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The President's Daily Brief

August 4, 1976

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Top Secret^{50X1}



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

August 4, 1976

Table of Contents

Lebanon: The Arab League is still trying to secure compliance with a cease-fire. Meanwhile, both the Muslim and Christian factions are moving to bolster their civil authority. 50X1
(Page 1)

South Africa - Rhodesia: 


Egypt: Some military officers reportedly view the buildup along the Libyan border as a US-engineered scheme to divert Egypt's attention from Israel. 50X1
(Page 4)

Greece-Turkey: Athens has sent its own oceanographic ship into the northern Aegean where a similar Turkish vessel has been operating since last week. (Page 5)

Guinea-USSR: President Toure says he intends to prohibit the use of Guinea as a staging base for Soviet TU-95 naval reconnaissance flights after this month. (Page 6)

Notes: Libya-USSR; Libya; Malaysia-USSR; Chile (Pages 8 and 9)

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LEBANON: Arab League mediator Hasan Sabri al-Khuli is continuing his efforts to secure compliance with a cease-fire, but several obstacles apparently remain before a truce can be concluded.

Although Christian leaders reportedly accept the concept of stationing Arab League forces in a buffer zone between east and west Beirut, they may still be resisting deployment of the forces in the eastern, Christian-controlled sector.

The leftist political council recently formed by Kamal Jumblatt to administer west Beirut announced yesterday that it has created a 420-man military police force. Troops from the renegade Lebanese Arab Army and leftist militiamen apparently form the backbone of the force.

Fatah, which had been providing security for the Muslim sector (50X1 the city, has become increasingly concerned about the resentment its authority has engendered among Lebanese Muslims

The commander of the police unit-- a member of the largest left-wing militia in Beirut--has stressed (50X1 that the force's primary task is to restore order

President Franjiyah has called for a cabinet meeting today--the first since late March--to consider trying to revive the central government's administrative apparatus.

Karami has announced that he will not attend the session on the grounds that he no longer recognizes Franjiyah as the president of Lebanon. Other Muslim cabinet ministers will probably also boycott the meeting. (50X1

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These moves and countermoves are likely to work to Jumblatt's advantage by underscoring the total collapse of the central government and the lack of any real power among traditional Muslim leaders like Karami to represent Muslim interests.

Fighting was at a low level throughout most of Lebanon yesterday, and a local cease-fire in the Tall Zatar area of Beirut finally permitted evacuation of the first increment of wounded from the camp.

A total of 91 were taken out of the camp yesterday. Red Cross officials are hopeful that the evacuation can be continued for five or six days until the more than 1,000 wounded are removed, but Christian officials on the scene yesterday told the press that allowing the camp's defenders an extended truce would not be "realistic."

Christian leaders hope that Palestinian forces will voluntarily depart from the camp after the wounded have been removed, leaving the area fully in Christian hands. They are working on a similar arrangement for the Shia Muslim district of Nabaa, the only other Muslim enclave in the Christian sector of Beirut.

Christian and Syrian forces continue shelling Palestinian and leftist positions in the Jazzin area, but ground fighting appears to have tapered off.

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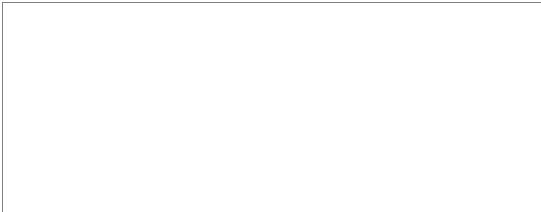
The Christians claimed on Monday night that the key town of Rum, site of a regional Fatah headquarters, had been "regained."

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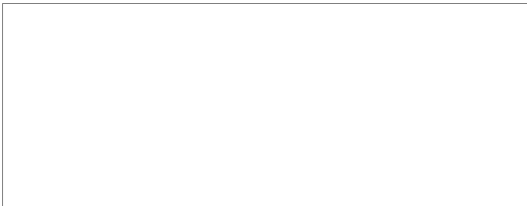
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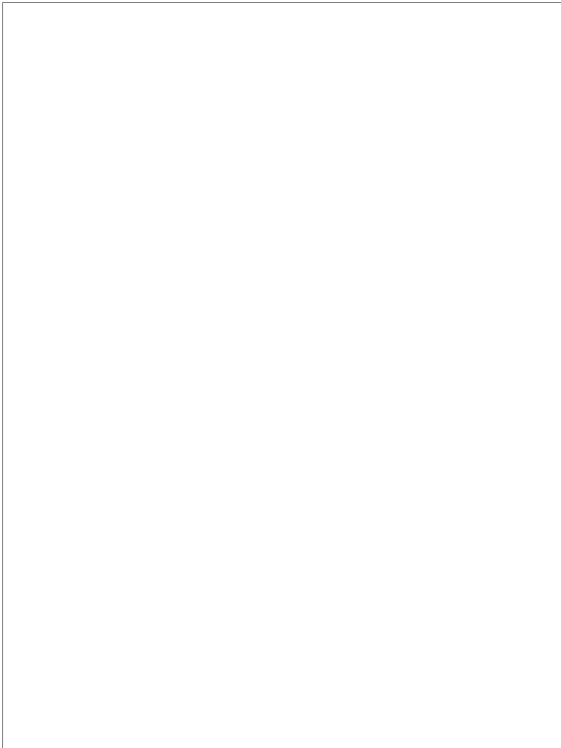
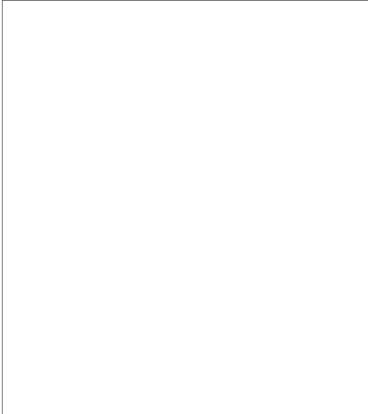
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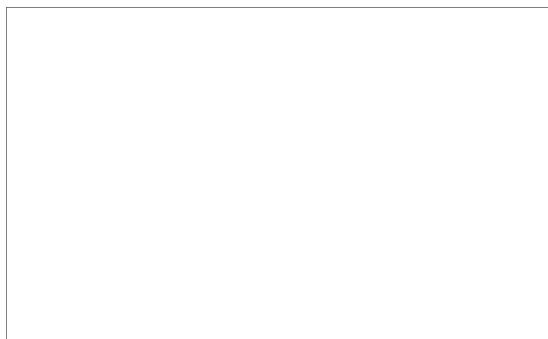
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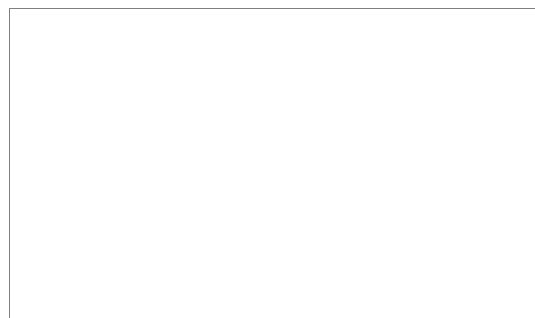
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EGYPT: Some Egyptian military officers reportedly view their military buildup along the Libyan border as a US-engineered scheme to divert Egypt's attention from Israel.

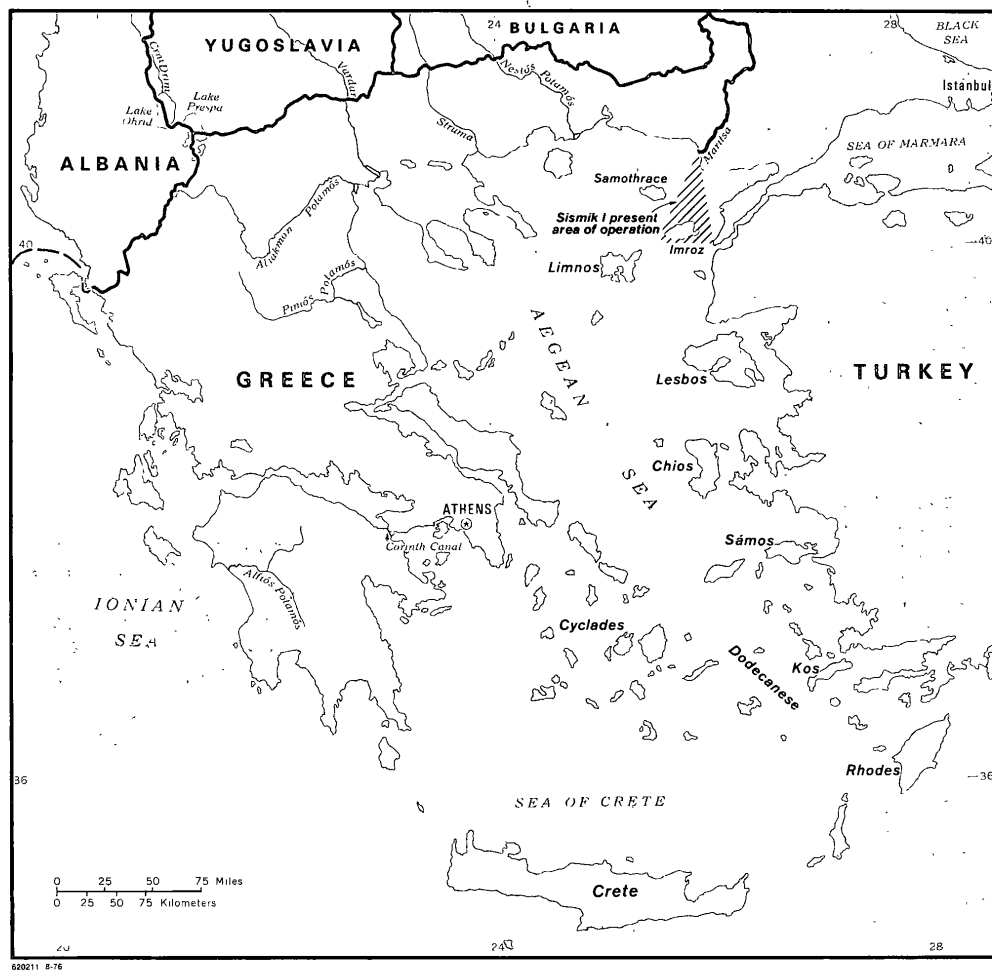


"many" military officers believe Washington is encouraging an Egyptian operation against Libya because the US cannot fulfill its promises to return Israeli-occupied territory in the Sinai and wants to focus Egyptian forces away from that area. They purportedly think Egypt's military readiness against Israel is being reduced at US behest to fight "the wrong enemy," and that President Sadat is a US 50X1 pawn.



We do not know how widespread these sentiments are. They are probably

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not [] prevalent []
[]
nonetheless reflects the views of
a segment of the Egyptian military.

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These complaints would undoubtedly be silenced by a successful operation against Libya. An unsuccessful operation, on the other hand, or a prolonged deployment on the Libyan border without action, could increase military discontent with Sadat and aggravate grievances over economic and other issues unrelated to the military situation.

* * *

GREECE-TURKEY: *Athens announced yesterday that it had sent its own oceanographic ship, the Nautilus, into the northern Aegean.*

A similar Turkish vessel, the Sismik I, entered the Aegean last week accompanied by a naval escort. The Nautilus reportedly is operating alone, although press reports claim it is "in contact" with Greek warships.

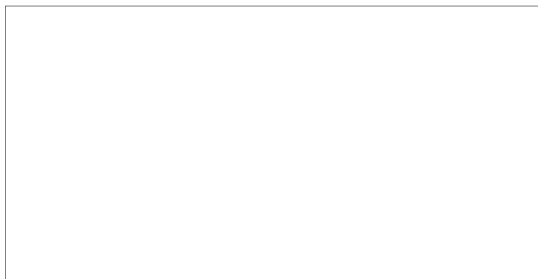
The course announced for the Turkish ship through August 20 should not provoke a confrontation, but Greek Prime Minister Caramanlis appears convinced that the Sismik will enter a contested area after that period. Ankara has not indicated the ship's itinerary after August 20.

Caramanlis told Ambassador Kubisch over the weekend that if the Sismik began seismic research in a Greek area, he would be forced "to react" or risk being removed from office. Caramanlis was not certain what form his reaction would take but said he would give the Turks 24-48 hours to cease activities on the Greek-claimed continental shelf.

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The Turkish government has indicated it is up to Athens to resume the talks--broken off late last month--which sought to devise a compromise formula for safe passage of the Sismik through contested waters. Ambassador Macomber believes the Turks are not now prepared to take the lead in avoiding a crisis over the Sismik but may^{50X1} show some flexibility before the ship enters disputed waters.



* * *

GUINEA-USSR: *President Toure has told Ambassador Harrop that he intends to prohibit the use of Guinea as a staging base for Soviet TU-95 naval reconnaissance flights in the Atlantic after this month.*

Toure said that provisions to this effect have already been completed, although we have no reports that he has informed the Soviets of this.

He may be trying to elicit US protection against an alleged threat posed to his regime by Guinean exiles living in neighboring Senegal and Ivory Coast. Toure told the ambassador that the Soviet flights were first allowed because they served as a protection for Guinea against a recurrence of the sea-borne attack on Conakry mounted in 1970 by Portuguese-backed forces and Guinean exiles.

The Soviets have used the port of Conakry since 1970 as a staging base for naval operations off the west coast of Africa but have been refused permission to build their own facility there.

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They have deployed long-range naval reconnaissance aircraft to Guinea 16 times since 1973. The most recent deployment was from July 5 to 22, 1976. These aircraft usually have conducted at least one reconnaissance mission over the Atlantic. They have also on occasion been used to monitor the movements of US aircraft carriers en route to the Mediterranean and to support the Cuban sealift to Angola. The loss of the use of facilities in Guinea would not seriously hamper Soviet maritime reconnaissance operations in the north Atlantic, but operations in equatorial waters would be curtailed.

Toure, on the other hand, may only be giving the appearance of receptivity to US concerns. He avoided discussing the small Soviet naval patrol off Conakry since 1970, which strengthens Toure's position against his domestic opponents.

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NOTES

Libya received 17 MIG-23 jet fighters from the USSR last month. These shipments bring the estimated number of MIG-23s delivered thus far to 41.


Moscow has now delivered about half of the \$730 million worth of equipment negotiated in 1974. In addition to the MIG-23s, deliveries have included tanks, armored personnel carriers, SA-2 missiles, and six TU-22 medium bombers. Libya expects to receive six more TU-22s soon. Iraq is the only other third world country to receive this sophisticated bomber from the USSR.

Last year, 350 Soviet military technicians were in Libya and 600 Libyans were sent to the USSR for military training.

* * *

Libyan President Qadhafi has shelved, at least temporarily, his planned call-up of some 20,000 government civil servants for military service.

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his advisers may have convinced him that the call-up would seriously hurt the Libyan economy.

Qadhafi has been planning for some time to expand the armed forces to man his growing stocks of Soviet and West European weapons. His efforts have been frustrated, however, because of Libya's small population (2.5 million people) and the lack of interest among eligible males in military service.

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Malaysia has decided to cancel impending negotiations with the USSR on a hydroelectric project that was to have been Moscow's first major aid venture in non-communist Southeast Asia since the mid-60s.

A Soviet feasibility study on the \$80 million dam project was completed last year. Pressure from Moscow for an agreement to begin the project has only irritated the Malaysians.

The cancellation follows a long series of Malaysian rebuffs to Moscow and underscores how little progress the Soviets have made in recent years in cultivating non-communist Southeast Asian states.

Prime Minister Hussein clearly would like to keep both the Soviets and the Chinese at arm's length. Because of Malaysia's very large ethnic Chinese minority, Kuala Lumpur particularly wants to avoid any gesture to the Soviets that would give Peking an opening to seek an increased presence.

* * *

The Chilean government announced last night that 250 political prisoners would be released as soon as countries could be found to accept them.

The move is intended to improve Chile's image--particularly in the US. The planned releases will bring the total number of detainees freed to about 610 since Secretary Simon's visit to Santiago in May. Although Foreign Ministry sources did not identify those to be released, the press reported earlier that Allende's former economy minister, Fernando Flores, had been granted an exit permit allowing him to go into exile in the US.

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